

3/12/22

Dear Judiciary Committee,

I am writing today in strict **opposition** to SB.16 and HB.5416, and writing in **support** of SB. 388, HB. 5415, and HB. 5412.

SB. 16 will prohibit firearms on public transportation. I ask, what about the young mother traveling alone with her child through crime ridden areas who cannot carry her firearm on the bus or her walk to and from the bus? According to the latest FBI Unified Crime Report (UCR) (2020) the number one location for violent crime offenses in CT is on the "highway/alley/street/sidewalk". We know criminals will not follow these laws so are you really going to disarm the most vulnerable? SB. 16 greatly restricts the majority of semi-automatic firearms that CT residents would be able to legally purchase, even though those same firearms are some of the least-likely to be used in crimes. In fact, the number one weapon used for violent crime in CT on the latest FBI UCR (2020) was a "knife/cutting instrument" at 1,458 violent offenses then followed (way behind) by firearms at 816 offenses.

This section also outlines more regulation on firearm businesses, the BATFE is already the overseeing agency which deals with compliance within these businesses. Attaching an additional license is redundant and a money grab at small business owner, it is no surprise why most of the industry left the state and now has prospering business elsewhere. These business owners ALREADY have their license. Does a CT resident need a MA driver license to drive through their state?

Limiting the number of pistols and revolvers purchased by law-abiding gun owners, as outlined in HB. 5416, will **not** reduce these violent offenses. This bill assumes that criminals who commit these violent offenses follow legal channels to obtain their firearms, they do not. There is no data that shows a correlation with number of firearms legally purchased and violent crime. This will only hurt the law-abiding gun owners exercising their constitutional rights.

I ask that the committee instead look at approving SB. 388, HB. 5415, and HB. 5412. These bills will do more in preventing violent crimes and will further support constitutional rights. SB. 388 will support the victims of violence by allowing them to stand their ground and defend themselves in their dwelling, place of work, or in their cars. The law now requires a potential victim to retreat and lean on the side of the aggressor. Under current CT law you can be attacked in your vehicle and you have no legal right to defend yourself, you must retreat. Under proposed SB.388 residents would have had the legal backing to defend themselves and avoid possible fatal injury. This bill would also help victims of domestic violence. The Family Violence Prevention Fund found that 74% of working women who were battered are harassed by their partners while they are at work. Additionally, in 2000 the US Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics found the second leading cause of on-the-job death to be homicide. They also found

25,000 annual sexual assaults occurring in the workplace as well as over one million instances of stalking. Under SB. 388 these women would be able to defend themselves in the workplace and drive this crime statistic down. SB. 388 would also help to curb workplace violence and could prevent tragedies such as the FEDEX mass shooting last April in Indianapolis that killed 8, from happening in CT. Any of these 8 victims would have been able to defend themselves and could of neutralized the aggressor, preventing further tragedy. HB. 5412 would accomplish the same objective in houses of worship.

Additionally, I support HB. 5415 allowing the transfer of **legally** possessed “assault weapons” and “high-capacity magazines”. The key word in this bill is **legally**, this would take some restrictions off legal guns owners and give them the ability to transfer their property. Currently it is a rodeo if a legal gun owner passes away, becomes ill, wants to pass down to their family or encounters a rough monetary time in their life, there is nearly no legal means for a person to transfer their assets if it was deemed “Assault Weapons”

We call ourselves the constitution state, yet we adhere to it the least. We can change that, protect victims of violence, and support constitutional rights by **opposing** SB. 16, HB. 5416, and **supporting** SB. 388, HB. 5412, and HB. 5415.

Thank you for your time,

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